

STANDARD OIL COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA

Presents

"I AM AN AMERICAN"

A Musical Hall of Fame

(36th Annual STANDARD SCHOOL BROADCAST course)

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PROGRAM # 3

"BENJAMIN FRANKLIN"

October 31, 1963

MUSIC (T): SIGNATURE THEME (HAUG-DRAGON) T 1743-1:01
(ORCHESTRA) R-47 B-
MAIN THEME UP FULL FOR :27, THEN TO BACKGROUND & CONCLUD
UNDER FOLLOWING SCRIPT.

ANNOUNCER: "I Am an American" -- A Musical Hall of Fame -- presented as a public service by the Standard Oil Company of California. Each week at this time we recall the life of an outstanding individual who has been honored by The Hall of Fame for Great Americans at New York University. Through music and the stories of their lives, we reflect the ideals, intelligence, courage and achievements they contributed to our Nation's traditions -- a heritage that makes each of us proud to say "I Am an American."

JOHN: The year is 1752 - a summer thunderstorm breaks over Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Two men stand in a meadow, watching a kite climb into a darkening sky. One is Benjamin Franklin, then in his mid-forties. He holds a hemp kite string with a key tied to its end. The other man is William, his 21 year old son....

BEN: You gave it a good start, William. Look how the kite climbs into the middle of that dark cloud. If I'm right,
we shall soon know ~~if~~^{that} lightning is electricity.

WILLIAM: Look, Sir, the threads on the kite string are standing straight-up - as ~~if~~^{though} they're moved by an unseen force!

HEN: They are, William. Electricity - electricity from the lightning is passing down the string to this key. I'll touch it. (SLIGHT GASP) The key was charged with electricity! I felt a shock! (FOLLOWING IS UNDER JOHN'S SPEECH UNTIL FADED) Quick, let's get out of this rain!

We shall have to run - the shed, William - run to the
shed! I must keep the kite flying - keep it in the air.
Look how the lightning plays about it. See? Quick, up
on the porch - I'll handle the kite. I have it - there!

JOHN: (OVER PRECEDING LINES 15 THROUGH 20) - so, Franklin proved lightning was electricity. The experiment could

JOHN: have killed Ben Franklin, depriving America of one of its most brilliant men. Inventor, scientist, statesman, writer and publisher, Franklin was a many-sided genius.

JOHN: VOICES & THUNDER, WHICH HAVE BEEN SLOWLY FADING SINCE JOHN'S SPEECH, ARE NOW OUT.

JOHN: Stan Jones has composed a song about this dramatic experiment with a kite. Mason Williams and a male trio sing A Key on the String of a Kite.

MUSIC (1) A KEY ON THE STRING OF A KITE (JONES) T 3253 - 1:39
(M. WILLIAMS & TRIO) R- B-

JOHN: Our story of Benjamin Franklin begins in Boston, Massachusetts, on January 17, 1706, the year he was born. He was the 10th of 17 children. His father, Josiah, was a candlemaker who had come to the American colonies from England. He was a religious man and - as was the custom - he gave one-tenth of what was his to the church. Since Ben was his tenth child, it was decided that he would be a minister. However, there was no money to educate him, so little Ben was put to work making candles. He disliked this job. He wanted to be a sailor, like one of his older brothers, but his father wouldn't hear of it. He ^{QA} felt Ben should learn a trade, ~~like~~ James, another older brother, ^{had done.} James owned a printing shop. He agreed to take Ben as an apprentice, or helper. Ben would get his board and room until he was 21, but - as was the custom - no wages. So, barely in his teens, Ben learned to set type and print. He had always been a great reader and

JOHN: the shop printed many books. The brothers often quarreled, but Ben became James's best worker. In his spare time, ~~he~~^{he} could watch the ships sail from Boston harbor to the lands he longed to visit. The sailors often sang sea shanties, such as the one our baritone George Alexander sings now. The Boston-Come-All-Ye.

MUSIC (2): THE-BOSTON-COME-ALL-YE (SEA SHANTY) T 2064 - 1:57
(G. ALEXANDER & ENS.) R- B-

JPHIN: Ben wanted to be a writer. He longed to write for the newspaper his brother printed, but James laughed at the idea of a 16-year-old writing for his paper. So Ben wrote letters to the newspaper - and signed them Silence Bogood. Soon, all Boston was talking about the letters and commenting on Silence's opinions and her good sense. When Ben confessed he was Silence, James was not amused. They were quarreling more often now, so Ben decided to run away. At 17, he set out for New York and then Philadelphia, where he worked as a printer's helper. Ben liked Philadelphia and "The City of Brotherly Love" liked him. The next few years were filled with adventure. Ben went to London, where he worked as a printer for almost two years. When he returned to Philadelphia, he and a friend started a printing shop. At 24, Ben owned the shop - and married Deborah Read. They prospered and their family grew. First came William, then Francis, ^{Francis died as a child,} then Sally. Ben began printing his own newspaper - then another was added and another. His wit and common sense

JOHN: were making him famous throughout the colonies. Ben made a success of nearly everything he tried - and he tried nearly everything. His interests were said to have included composing, too. We hear a Minuet from the Benjamin Franklin Suite, transcribed by John Vincent. The music features a ~~piano~~-like instrument called a harpsichord.

MUSIC (3): BENJ. FRANKLIN SUITE-MINUET #1 (Tr. J.Vincent) T 3396 - 1:15
(ORCHESTRA w/HARPSICHORD) R- B-

JOHN: At 26, Franklin printed his own calendar, filling the spaces between the dates with bits of wit and wisdom. He called it "Poor Richard's Almanack." It contained such sayings as -

WILLIAM: "Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise."

DEBORAH: "One today is worth two tomorrow."

BEN: "Look ahead or you will find yourself behind."

JOHN: - and Ben did look ahead. He started a debating club that became the American Philosophical Society. He helped start the first public library in Philadelphia and a school that became the University of Pennsylvania. Electricity had recently been discovered and Ben studied its nature. His experiment with the kite proved that lightning was a big electric spark. He invented the lightning rod for the tops of buildings. When lightning struck the metal rod, its electricity traveled down a wire to be safely discharged in the ground. Through his

JOHN: experiments, Ben's fame spread to Europe. He was now the most important man in Pennsylvania. In 1755, during the French and Indian War against England's American colonies, Colonel Ben Franklin led an expedition to build forts along the frontier. The Shawnee Indians were one of the tribes fighting the colonists. The American composer Charles Sanford Skilton used their tribal themes to portray a Shawnee Indian Hunting Dance.

MUSIC (h): SHAWNEE INDIAN HUNTING DANCE (SKILTON) T 3074 - 2:31
(ORCHESTRA) R- B-

JOHN: By 1757, Ben was a leader in the Pennsylvania Assembly. His good mind and strong character made other men respect him. Someone had to go to London to talk to the king and his advisors about unfair land taxation. Ben's fame in Europe made him the Assembly's choice to make the trip.

PEN: (UNDER LAST LINE OF ABOVE) - and the need now is very great. (IN CLEAR) Deborah, we shall all go. William is now 26. It's time he visited England.

DEBORAH Ben, I can not go. Sally is only 14. The trip is long and hard - and more than a little dangerous for two women. We shall stay in Philadelphia. (BEAT) It's best, Ben.

WILLIAM: I will go with you, Father. You will need a companion.

PEN: Yes, William, come with me. Our stay will be short.

(UNDER FIRST LINE OF JOHN'S FOLLOWING DIALOGUE) Now, we shall have to arrange our passage on the first ship.

JOHN: - but Ben was wrong. He stayed five years. All London came to admire the wisdom and humor of this great man.

JOHN: Even the king's advisors listened. Gradually, he solved some of the colony's problems. The British realized Ben's growing power in the colonies. He could be a powerful friend should there be trouble. After Ben returned to Philadelphia, William became Governor of New Jersey. Ben wasn't fooled by this flattery, but he was pleased.

(BEAT) While in London, Franklin invented an improved version of a musical instrument called ~~the~~ armonica. A-B-M-O-N-I-C-A. It was a series of glass bowls, graduated in size and fitted one inside the other. They were mounted on a spindle or a rod and set in a trough of water. As the spindle turned, a player would touch the wet rims of the spinning glasses and produce a ~~delightful~~ musical sound. Mozart and Beethoven composed for these musical glasses - and perhaps Ben did, too. Armonicas are rare today, but a string orchestra plays music Ben is said to have composed for his invention. The Caprice from the Benjamin Franklin Suite, transcribed by John Vincent.

MUSIC (5): BENJ. FRANKLIN SUITE: CAPRICE (Tr.VINCENT) T 3243 - 1:20
(STRING ORCHESTRA) R- B-

JOHN: When the French and Indian War ended in 1763, ~~the~~ Americans no longer wanted England's protection. They had helped the British drive the French from North America. Now they wanted to stand alone. They didn't want to pay taxes to a government in which they had no voice. They wanted to make their own laws. So, Franklin again went to London to speak for the colonists.

DEBORAH: (UNDER LAST LINE OF JOHN'S DIALOGUE) - we all miss you so. (IN CLEAR) I hope this letter finds you well, dear husband. You're almost 60, Ben. It's time you slowed down. (BEAT) Feeling here is strong about the new Stamp Act. People ask why we should pay the king taxes on things we make for ourselves and ~~use~~^{SELL} to each other.

(UNDER JOHN'S NEXT DIALOGUE) To most, it seems unfair. JOHN: Ben persuaded the British to end that tax, but - there were others. For 10 years he worked in England to keep the peace, but things grew worse at home. Colonists died in a clash with British soldiers in Boston. A British tax on tea resulted in the Boston Tea Party. Peace had become impossible. Before Ben could sail for home, he learned Deborah had died. When he arrived in Philadelphia in May, 1775, the American Revolution had begun. He met with Patrick Henry, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and other patriots to help write the Declaration of Independence. On July 4, 1776, in Philadelphia's State House, it was adopted by Congress. The Declaration announced that the 13 colonies had become an independent new nation - the United States of America.

SOUND (B): LIBERTY BELL (MOCK) IN CLEAR FOR :03, THEN TO B/G, MIXED w/SHOUTS & CROWD SOUNDS UNTIL OUT ON CUE.

JOHN: When it was read in State House Square, cheers greeted its stirring words. The State House's bell rang loud and clear over their voices. War was ahead, but freedom was in the air! (BEAT) (BELL OUT IN SLOW FADE) Years

JOHN: later, John Philip Sousa wrote a march honoring the bell
than rang on that patriotic occasion. The Liberty Bell.

MUSIC (6): THE LIBERTY BELL: MARCH (SOUSA) T 819 - 2:26
(ORCH) R-28 B-

JOHN: Ben was 70 years old now. The war raged on. Washington commanded the small, ragged armies that faced the might of England. Help would have to come from Europe. France had long been England's enemy - perhaps the French would help. So, Ben sailed for France in the autumn of 1776. He was a strange-looking man in elegant Paris. He wore a plain brown suit and a fur cap pulled down over his long, grey hair. Yet, his simplicity was fitting for a man who represented a democratic people. At first, the French government wasn't willing to risk a war with England by helping the Americans openly. Secretly, they supplied weapons and money. When American troops won a decisive victory at Saratoga, Ben finally convinced the French to enter the war. In 1778, France signed a treaty of alliance. This was the turning point of the Revolution. Ben Franklin, thousands of miles from the war, had won a major victory. (BEAT) Soon, French soldiers would hear the melody of Chester, a marching song of the Revolution. It was written by William Billings, one of our earliest composers. Originally, Chester was a hymn. It is this version our tenor Raymond Manton sings now.

MUSIC (7): CHESTER (BILLINGS) T 1869 - 1:43
(R. MANTON w/ORGAN) R-50 B-

JOHN: When at last the Americans won the war, Ben stayed on in France to work out the peace treaty with England. At the age of 79 - old and tired - he sailed for home. But, back in Philadelphia, Ben's country still needed him. The United States needed new laws to govern it. His last great service was to help draft the Constitution of the United States, in 1787. Three years later, at the age of 84, he died, knowing his lifetime of service had helped make his country free. Ben Franklin was the only American who signed all four great documents of his time: The Declaration of Independence, the Treaty of Alliance with France, the Treaty of Peace with Great Britain and the Constitution of the United States. (BEAT) The American Revolution and the French Revolution are often compared with each other. France's struggle began the year before Franklin died. His comment on the French Revolution is vital to this day:

BEN: "God grant that not only the love of liberty but a thorough knowledge of the rights of man may pervade all the nations of the earth...."

JOHN: - he then added that a philosopher, or a wise man, should be able to go anywhere in the world and say "This is my country." (BEAT) France won its freedom from tyranny to the music of La Carmagnole. We hear it now as a theme in the finale of La Rosiere Republicaine, by the French composer Andre Gretry.

MUSIC (8): LA ROSIERE REPUBLICAINE: FINALE (GRETRY) T 3395 - 1:01
(ORCHESTRA)

R- B-

ANNOUNCER: Events in the life of Benjamin Franklin have shown us the patriotism and responsibilities we assume in saying - "I Am an American."

Featured on this program were Evangeline Baker,
and Our soloists were folk
singers Mason Williams and George Alexander and tenor
Raymond Manton. Carmen Dragon conducted the orchestra.
The program was written and produced by Willard S. Davis,
Jr., under the supervision of Adrian Michaelis, Program
Manager.

The foregoing script was checked for accuracy by the
Hall of Fame for Great Americans at New York University.

The conversations and letters between characters were
fictional. John Grover speaking.

Join us next week when events in the life of Daniel Boone,
frontiersman, remind us of the heritage behind the words -
"I Am an American."

MUSIC (T): SIGNATURE THEME (HAUG-DRAGON)
(ORCHESTRA)

T 1740 - :57

R- B-

PRE-THEME IN B/G UNDER FOREGOING SCRIPT: THEME IN CLEAR,
UP FULL AND CONCLUDE BEFORE READING OF FOLLOWING SIGNOFF:

ANNOUNCER: "I Am an American" -- A Musical Hall of Fame - the 36th
Annual Series of the Standard School Broadcast - is
presented transcribed by the Standard Oil Company of
California.